

LECTURES UPON THE PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY. By CHARLES B. NANCREDE, A.M., M.D., LL.D. 8vo, pp. 398. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1899.

This work comprises thirty-six lectures and an appendix containing a *résumé* of the principal views held concerning inflammation. The lectures, for the most part, are devoted to what is ordinarily termed surgical pathology; the remainder to such subjects as hæmorrhage, treatment of wounds, sterilization, shock, various forms of delirium, and anæsthetics.

The lectures on surgical pathology are particularly admirable. The subject is treated on the most recent lines of scientific research; the facts are impressively presented, and the practical side is always well in touch with the theory. The always vexatious subject of inflammation is especially well elucidated, and the logical deductions are of the soundest nature. Equally commendable is the presentation of the subjects of immunity, natural resistance, and autointoxication. In the later chapters, devoted more to the practice of surgery, the personal views are well marked, and there is naturally some divergence from the views of other individual teachers.

The book is to be recommended to the student as a thoroughly sound work, out of which he can study the most necessary elements of the art of surgery to great advantage. There is a total absence of "padding," and, also, of confusing quotations from other writers.

CHARLES L. GIBSON.

AN AMERICAN TEXT-BOOK OF SURGERY. Edited by WILLIAM W. KEEN, M.D., LL.D., and J. WILLIAM WHITE, M.D., PH.D. Third edition, thoroughly revised. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1899.

Two former editions, to the number of nearly 29,000 copies, have not sufficed the demand for this standard text-book.

"In the present edition, among the new topics introduced are a full consideration of orrho- (serum) therapy, leucocytosis, post-opera-

tive insanity, the use of dry heat at high temperatures, Krönlein's method of locating the cerebral fissures, Hoffa and Lorenz's operations for congenital dislocation of the hip-joint, lumbar puncture, the forcible reposition of the spine in Pott's disease, the treatment of exophthalmic goitre, the surgery of typhoid fever, gastrectomy and other operations on the stomach, several new methods of operating on the intestines, the use of Kelly's rectal specula, the surgery of the ureter, Schleich's infiltration method and the use of eucaïne for local anæsthesia, Krause's method of skin-grafting, the newer methods of disinfecting the hands, the use of gloves, etc. The increasing specialization of the surgery of the eye and the ear and the growth of the *American Text-Book* in size have compelled the editors to omit these two chapters."

The changes and additions of the third edition will contribute to maintain this work in the position it has already made for itself,—the best of its class. Of course, the more that is added to certain sections the greater seem the needs of the portions not subjected to revision, and at certain places the contrast is quite evident. Still, such a condition must almost necessarily exist; it is to-day probably as easy to rewrite a work on general surgery as to revise it. If any criticism is in place, it must certainly be directed to the lack of proportion in the importance accorded to the various subjects. For example, two pages are given to the description of certain aids to intestinal anastomosis, which to-day may be described as "antiques,"—bone-plates, catgut rings, and aids derived from the vegetable kingdom; while the Murphy button, the method most commonly employed to-day throughout the world, is dismissed in considerably less than a hundred words. Again, for a new and comparatively untried method,—Laplace's forceps,—over two pages are employed.

Restriction of space will, of course, account for a number of deficiencies; occasionally there is a pretty marked one, as failure to give more than four words to the frequency with which the bladder is exposed or injured by modern methods of operating for the radical cure of hernia. Of less frequent occurrence, fortunately, is an error of judgment, as exists in describing amputation of the penis for can-

cer, without stating the fact that removal of the inguinal glands must necessarily be an integral part of a properly performed operation.

The collaborators of this work have displayed excellent judgment in many places by omitting to include in their additions to the text a number of operations recently in vogue, but not destined to be accepted as "good surgery."

CHARLES L. GIBSON.

THE MODERN TREATMENT OF WOUNDS. By JOHN E. SUMMERS, JR.,
M.D. Omaha: Medical Publishing Company, 1899.

This little book touches upon the salient points of the surgery of wounds. Its author has not attempted to prepare an elaborate work, but has set down his own views concerning the general principles of the treatment of wounds. On the whole these views are sound. The book has much the style of a primer, and this, together with the meagreness of details and technique, makes it to read like a popular work for lay instruction.

"It ought to be borne in mind that any injury which leaves a foreign body other than a bullet in the tissues is liable to be followed by tetanus" is hardly a fair sample of the general tone of the work; nor is this, "Punctured wounds are met with most commonly in the feet and hands, and are often followed by serious consequences." The author says: "The treatment of all contused, lacerated, and punctured wounds belongs strictly to antiseptic and not to aseptic surgery."

In punctured wounds of the brain inflicted through the optic foramen the author advises enucleation of the eye-ball, even if it is not injured. He says, "In such a case, even if the globe of the eye is not injured, the optic nerve probably is; and in any case it is better to sacrifice the eye than to invite secondary inflammatory conditions in the orbit, and may be in the brain."

Now we come to wounds of the heart: "A wound of the heart had better be left to nature. She sometimes brings about recovery." There is better advice in the following: "Operations which in them-